

# McFaddin

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2006-2007*



#### **McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Brochure 2006-2007**

When signed and in your possession, this hunt brochure will serve as your general permit for all refuge hunts this year (***Fee Area also requires a Fee Area Hunt Permit***). It acknowledges your understanding of the refuge regulations contained in this brochure.

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Signature of Hunter

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Date

*Permits are required for all hunters.* This permit is valid only when signed above and must be carried with you at all times while on the Refuge. Permits are not transferable.

## General Provisions

The regulations listed below are a supplement to the general regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations which govern activities on National Wildlife Refuges. Hunting will be in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

## General Hunting Regulations

Public hunting of only ducks, geese, and coots on McFaddin NWR is permitted only in areas designated by signs as open to hunting. **Please note that hunt unit boundaries have changed.** Hunters need to check area maps for location of hunting units and regulations governing hunting on them.

All persons entering a hunt area must be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl.

Hunters age 17 and younger must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older to hunt the refuge. Hunt areas will be open for the State-designated Youth Season for ducks and coots. To participate, hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. Adults may not hunt during the special Youth Season.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, and the contents of hunting equipment, containers, vehicles and watercraft by Refuge and State law enforcement officers.

All shotguns must be unloaded and encased while in transit on the refuge. No other firearms are allowed. Hunters must be in possession *only* of shells containing approved non-toxic shot.

Hunters must enter the refuge between 4:00 am and ½ hour before legal shooting time. Hunting starts at legal shooting time and closes at (12:00) noon. Hunters must be off the refuge by 12:30 pm. *Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.*

Motor vehicle use is restricted to roads designated as vehicle access roads. Blocking access to any road or trail entering the refuge is prohibited.

Access into hunt areas may be by foot, non-motorized boat, outboard motor boat, or airboat. Airboats may not exceed 10 HP with direct drive with a propeller length of 48 inches or less, and engines may not exceed 2 cylinders and 484 cc. Motorized boats powered by air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines are restricted to those powered by a single engine of 25 hp or less and utilizing a propeller 9 inches in diameter or less. No other motorized vehicles permitted.

The operation of motorized boats is restricted to lakes, ponds, ditches, and other waterways. The operation of motorized boats (including airboat) on or through emergent wetland vegetation is prohibited.

Portable blinds or temporary native vegetation blinds are permitted. All blinds must be removed from the refuge daily. The minimum distance between hunt parties is 200 yards. Hunt parties will be a minimum of 200 yards from all driveable roads and buildings. No hunting off levees.

All decoys, marsh chairs, spent shells, and other equipment must be removed from the refuge daily. Use of plastic flagging, reflectors, reflective tape, or cane (phragmites) is prohibited on the refuge.

Skybusting is prohibited. Allowing birds to decoy increases your hunting success. Use of retriever dogs is encouraged for conservation of downed birds, however dogs must be under the control of handlers at all times.

Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages anywhere on the refuge is prohibited.

Campfires are prohibited.

Some of the marsh is dangerously boggy. Alligators, poisonous snakes, mosquitoes and fire ants live in the marsh. We recommend against going into the marsh alone until you are thoroughly familiar with the hazards.

## **Central Hunt Unit** *Specific Hunt Regulations*

### *Hunt Days*

#### Location

Designated area east and west of Whites Levee. See map for exact location of open areas.

#### Non-fee Area

Special Teal Season - Open daily

Regular Waterfowl Season - Saturday,

Sunday, and Tuesday. Closed Holidays

Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2007, the Central Hunt Unit will be open on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

*(Please note - closed areas will remain closed during this season.)* Hunters may hunt until 12:00 pm. This season closes for the refuge on February 25, 2007.

## **Star Lake/Clam Lake Hunt Unit** *Specific Hunt Regulations*

### *Hunt Days*

#### Location

West of Clam Lake Road (Entrance Road) and south of Star Lake, including portions of Clam and Star Lakes. (See map for exact location of open areas).

#### Non-fee Area

Special Teal Season – Open Daily

Regular Waterfowl Season – Saturday,

Sunday, and Tuesday. Closed Holidays.

## Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2007, the Star Lake/Clam Lake Hunt Unit will be open on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. (*Please note - closed areas will remain closed during this season.*) Hunters may hunt until 12:00 pm. This season closes for the refuge on February 25, 2007.

### Access

During the regular waterfowl season only, all hunters hunting the Star Lake/Clam Lake Hunt Unit must register at the check station, including those accessing the unit from the beach along the brine line or Perkins Levee. Hunters will designate a hunt area on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be required to remain in assigned area for that day's hunt. All hunters accessing Star Lake and associated waters via boat must access through the refuge's Star Lake boat ramp.

## Spaced Hunt Unit Specific Hunt Regulations

### Location

East of Clam Lake Road. See map for exact location of hunt areas.

### Fee Area

(*Fee Area Hunt Permit required*)

\$10.00 per hunter - cash only. No user fee for hunters under 16 years of age.

### Spaced Hunt Areas

There are 28 spaced hunt areas. A maximum of four hunters per area is permitted.

### Special Teal Season – *Area Closed*

Regular Waterfowl Season – Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Closed Holidays

### Light Goose Conservation Order

*Area Closed*

### Entry Time

Permits for the Spaced Hunt Unit will be issued to registered hunters beginning at 4:00 am the day of the hunt at the waterfowl check station. Spaced hunt areas not claimed by 5:00 am will be issued to standby hunters on a first come, first serve basis. Fee Area Hunt Permits must be in possession while hunting.

### Reservation System

Reservations for Fee Area Hunt Permits will be taken between 8:00 am and 11:30 am the Friday before the hunt week. Reservations will be taken alternately between hunters present at check station and telephone callers. Permits are reserved until 5:00 am the day of hunt. For phone reservations, call 409/971-0337.

### Accessible Hunt Site

Spaced hunt area at Pond 11 is reserved for disabled hunters. It will become available to non-disabled hunt parties only on a standby basis at 5:00 am on

each hunt day. If any disabled parties arrive for standby status, Pond 11 will automatically be issued to that party.

## Mud Bayou Hunt Unit

### *Specific Hunt Regulations*

### *Hunt Days*

### *Special Access*

## Signs and Boundaries



### Location

West end of refuge at Jefferson and Chambers counties line. **\*Please note hunt unit boundaries have changed.** See map for open areas.

### Non-Fee Area

Special Teal Season – Open daily

Regular Waterfowl Season – Sunday,

Wednesday and Friday. Closed Holidays

Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2007, the Mud Bayou Unit will be open during this season on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Hunters may hunt until 12:00 p.m. This season closes for the refuge on February 25, 2007.

Access by foot from beach at designated crossings. Boat access only from Gulf Intracoastal Waterway via Mud Bayou.

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.

**National Wildlife Refuge.** This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.

**Area Closed.** Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.

**No Hunting Zone.** This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.

**Public Hunting Area.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

**Waterfowl Hunting Only.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

*Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.*

**July 2006**